Global Climate Change: The Role of International Diplomacy

(and Development)

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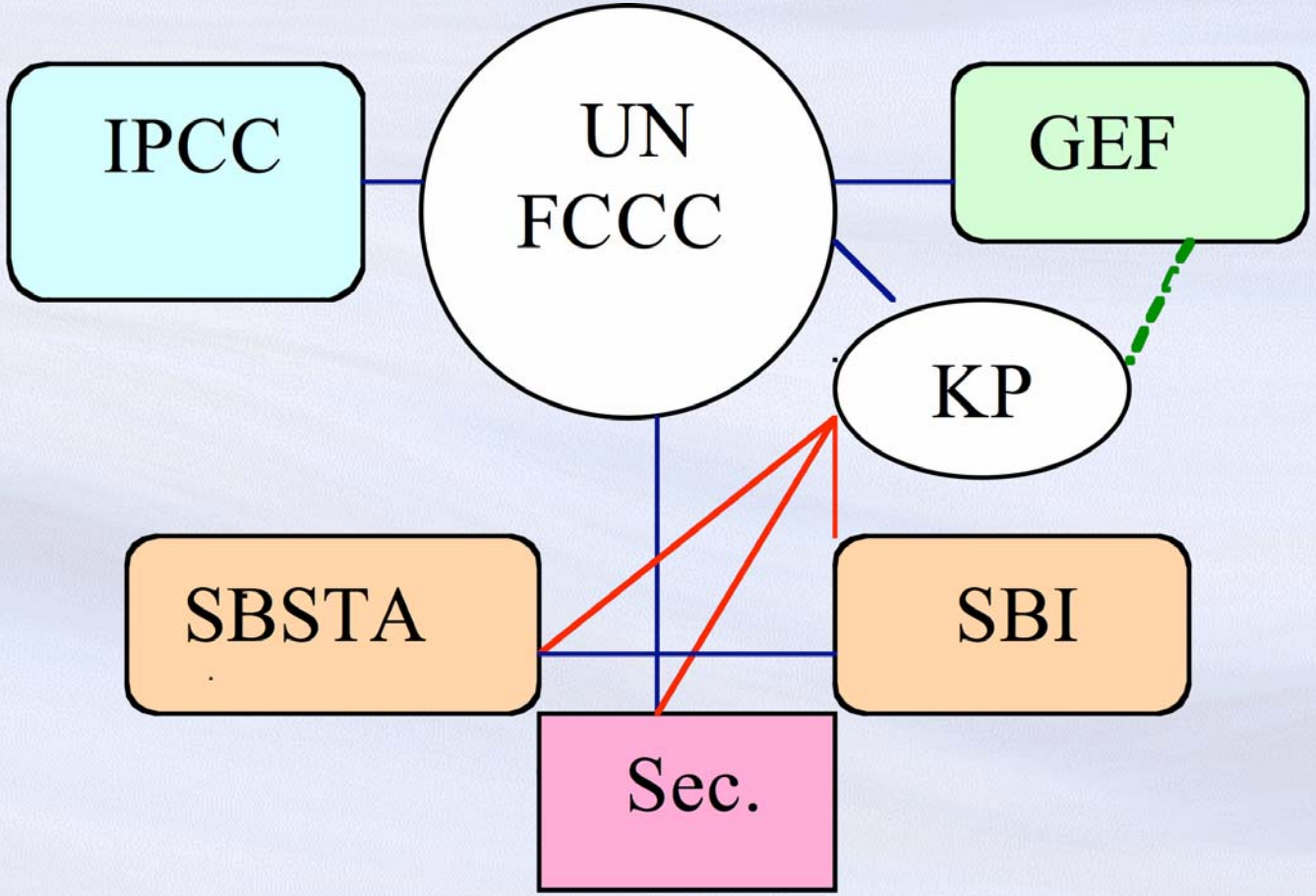
Outline of the Presentation

- *Overview of International Bodies Addressing Climate Change*
- *Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*
- *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*
- *General Conclusions*

The Relationship between Key Climate Entities



Definitional Challenges:

IPCC, UNFCCC and GEF definitions

- *The IPCC and UNFCCC use different definitions of climate change:*
  - *IPCC: "any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity."*
  - *UNFCCC: the "change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods."*

  Therefore, the largest body of scientific knowledge cannot be used without discrimination in determining impacts that inform actions under the UNFCCC

- *The financial mechanism for the Convention adds further restrictions:*
  - *GEF: funded activities must result in global environmental benefits*

IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

- *Created by the WMO/UNEP*
- *Formed to provide independent scientific advice on climate change, including to the UNFCCC*
- *Three working groups*
  - *Working Group I – physical science basis of climate change*
  - *Working Group II – impacts on natural and socio-economic systems to climate change, and options for adapting to them*
  - *Working Group III – options for limiting greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change*

IPCC Reports

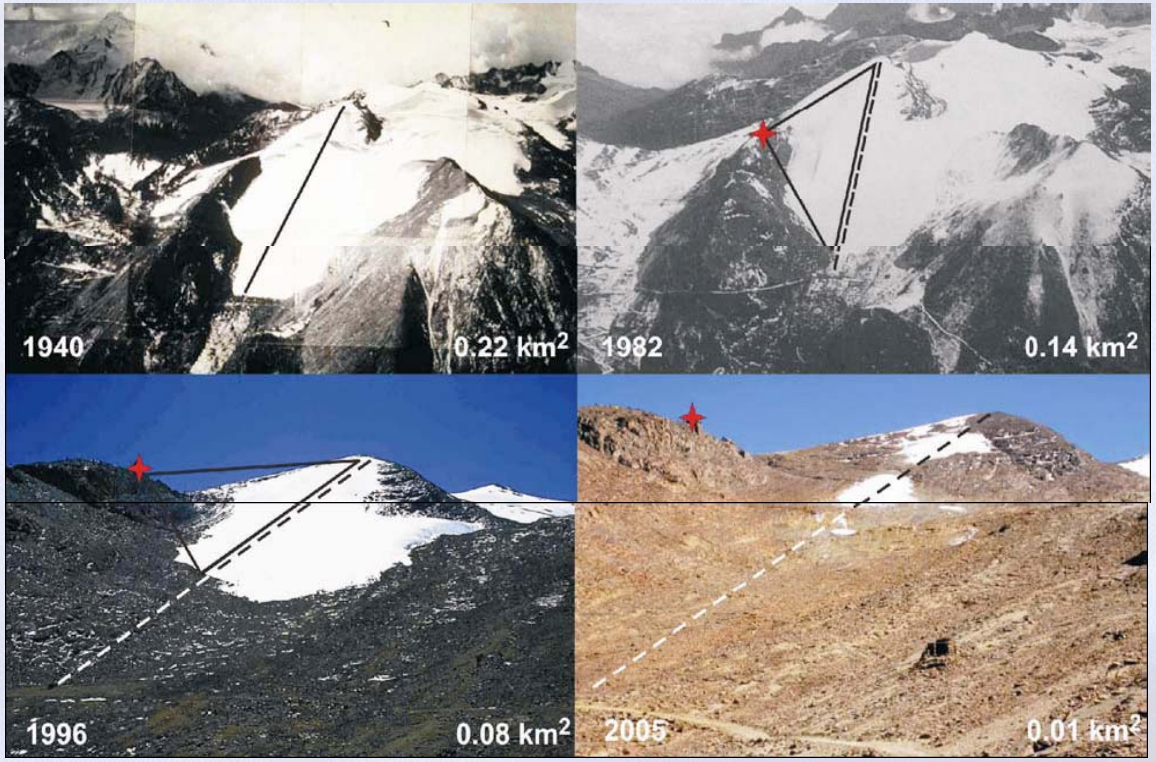
- *New report produced ~every six years.*
- *Written by teams of scientists from all parts of the world and who represent a range of expertise.*
- *Reports undergo two-stage scientific and technical review: first by expert reviewers, then governments.*
- *USG review done by Federal scientists*
  - *Comments solicited through Federal Register notice*
  - *Comments reviewed for technical merit and sent to IPCC*
- *Summaries for Policymakers (SPMs) are prepared concurrently with the main reports and also undergo expert and government review. They are approved in plenary session line-by-line.*
- *USG delegation to WGII IPCC meeting has technical experts from NOAA, NASA and EPA, and is led by OSTP*

Summary Working Group I Findings (AR4)

- *Climate change is occurring*
  - *Temperatures are increasing*
  - *Sea levels are rising*
  - *Ice is melting*
- *Very likely that recent changes are due to human activities*
- *Temperatures will continue to increase, sea levels will continue to rise, ice will continue to melt*

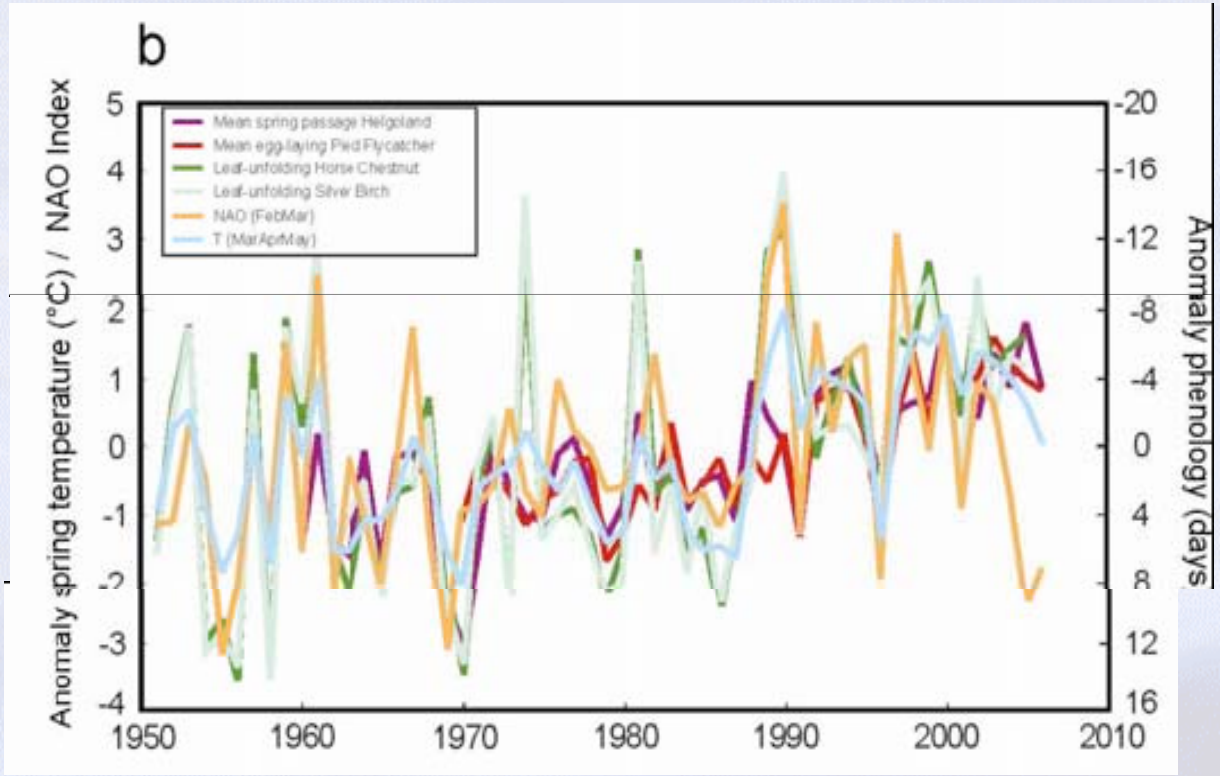
Working Group II – Ice Coverage and Extent

- *Enhanced melting of glaciers, with increased glacial run-off*
- *Earlier melting of seasonal snow cover*
- *Degradation of seasonally-frozen ground and permafrost*
- *Lakes and rivers staying frozen less long in winter*
- *Sea ice and ice sheets losing mass*



WG II Observed impacts – Biological Systems

- *Earlier timing of spring events such as leaf-unfolding, bird migrations, and egg-laying*
- *Some plant and animal species shifting their range polewards or to higher elevations*
  - *changes observed both in land- and water-based organisms*
- *Some Arctic and Antarctic species showing changes*



Projections of Future Impacts – by Sector

Water systems

- *Issues regarding water availability*
- *Drought and flood risks*

Ecosystems

- *Risk of species extinctions*

Food

- *Crop yields*

Coastal systems

- *Effects on coral systems*
- *Coastal flooding risks*

Human health

- *Health-related implications of other impacts (flooding, malnutrition, etc.)*
- *Changes in geographic extent of disease vectors (e.g., malaria)*
- *Beneficial effects of higher temperatures on exposure risks*

A Brief History

1988: IPCC established

1990: 1st IPCC report identifies concern

1992: UNFCCC agreed in Rio - voluntary

1994: UNFCCC enters into force

1995: COP-1 Berlin Mandate - explores mandatory targets and timetables. 2nd IPCC report

1997: Byrd-Hagel Resolution

1997: COP-3 Kyoto Protocol agreed

2001: Marrakech Accords (funds, CB, TT, etc.) 3rd IPCC report

2002: Delhi Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

2004: COP-10 Buenos Aires BAPWARM

2005: Kyoto Protocol enters into force

2006 to present:Review of commitments (Art. 9), UNFCCC Dialogue, KP AWG, Prep for COP 13 in Bali, 4th IPCC report

UNFCCC: A DAY IN THE LIFE…

- *Daily schedule*
- *First plenary days*
- *Negotiating block consultations*
- *Contact groups, "Friends of the Chair" consultations*
- *Hallway consultations*
- *End-game*
- *Side events*

Strategy, Coordination and reaching consensus

- *Negotiations will expand to fill all allotted time*
- *Good Cop, Bad Cop - "Negotiating symbiosis "*
    - *EU-US*
    - *AOSIS-OPEC*
- *Trading across issues: packages*
- *The role of predictability - we all know each other's positions*
- *The role of interest groups*

Challenges of Representing the U.S.

Success requires:

- *Setting personal position aside - or better yet, negotiate an issue for which you agree with the position*
- *Ability to resist peer-pressure*
- *Finding ones own strengths and negotiating style*
- *Recognizing that logic is a tool that doesn't always win*

Questions?

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